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CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

New Delhi airport

Scare at Delhi airport as intruder enters runway

An intruder jumped the perimeter wall and entered the runway on January 27, a day after R-Day when the city was under security blanket. An Air India pilot on January 27 noticed the intruder on the runway of the international airport and alerted the Air Traffic Controller. Soon the CISF personnel, who are in-charge for security, picked up the intruder and handed him to the Delhi Police. A CISF head constable, who was on duty that day, has been suspended

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee
Electrification of every household
2 crore 86 lakh houses get electricity connections under Saubhagya Yojana
Scan for more information
Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

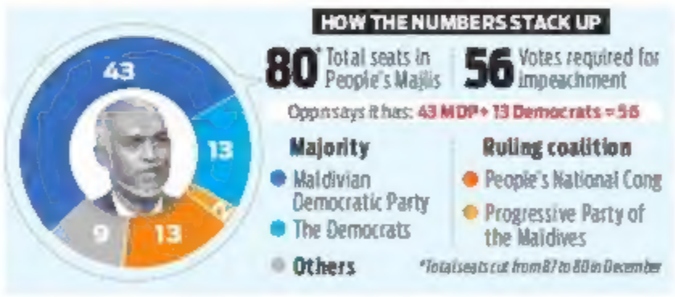
Impeachment sword dangles over Muizzu

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

CONTROVERSIAL Maldives President Mohammad Muizzu could be headed for trouble as the Opposition in parliament on Monday claimed they had enough signatures to submit a motion to impeach him.

The main opposition comprises the Maldivian Democratic Party with 43 seats and The Democrats with 13. Taken together, they add up to 56 — just enough to impeach the president. The opposition, however, is yet to submit its signatures for the motion.

The ruling coalition comprises Muizzu's People's National Congress and the Progressive Party of Maldives.



They are completely outnumbered in the Majlis (parliament) as their total strength is 15 in a House of 80.

The ruling coalition poked the opposition by submitting no-confidence motions against the speaker and deputy speaker, who are both from the Maldivian Democratic Party. The no-trust motion was submitted with the approval of 23 lawmakers, seven more than the strength of the ruling coalition. The impeachment motion is a tit-for-tat against Muizzu.

On Sunday, Maldivian parliament witnessed fistfights between MPs of the ruling and opposition parties over the appointment of four members to the president's cabinet. The opposition withheld parliamentary approval of four, which led to a free-for-all. The speaker was prevented from continuing the parliament session.

According to latest reports from Male, Muizzu reappointed three of the four ministers the parliament denied approval. The three are housing minister Dr Ali Haidar Ahmed, Islamic minister Dr Mohamed Shaheen Ali Saeed and Attorney General Ahmed Usham.

Muizzu won the presidential election in September 2023 after playing the pro-China and anti-India card.

CAA in a week? Didi growls over 'guarantee' pitch

Rules, portal ready. Union minister Shantanu Thakur claims it will be rolled out in 7 days

PRANAB MONDAL AND MUKESH RANJAN @ Kolkata/ New Delhi

THE political mercury in West Bengal soared on Monday after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee joined issue with a Union minister who 'guaranteed' that the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) would be rolled out within a week.

She urged people not to fall into the CAA trap after Union minister Shantanu Thakur said on Sunday it would be implemented across the country within seven days. Thakur is a representative of the influential Matua community in West Bengal that comprises Hindu refugees from Bangladesh.

Addressing a gathering in Cooch Behar, Mamata said the CAA is being raked up again for electoral gains. She went on to accuse the Border security Force (BSF) of issuing 'fake 'identity cards.

"Without being a citizen, how can they get government facilities and vote? The BSF is issuing separate identity cards for people living in border areas. Don't accept them. Tell them you have Aadhaar and ration card and do not need the fake card. If you accept the card, your name will be deleted from the NRC (National Register of Citizens)," Mamata cautioned.

Addressing a meeting in Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas, a Matua pocket, Thakur said, "Ram Mandir in Ayodhya has been inaugurated... Within the next seven days, the CAA will be implemented. This is my guarantee from this dais."

Union minister Shantanu Thakur and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

Indian nationality

Under the CAA, Indian nationality will be granted to persecuted non-Muslim migrants — Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians — from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who had come to India till Dec 31, 2014

Sources in the Union home ministry said the rules for the CAA rollout and an online portal for its facilitation are already in place. But the timing of its rollout will be decided at the highest level.

Thakur was possibly used by the party's leadership to test how big a buzz can be built ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, as its maximum impact will be in Bengal, sources claimed.

"The rules are ready and the online portal is also in place and the entire process will be online. Applicants will have to declare the year when they entered India without travel documents. No document will be sought from the applicants," a source said.

The school bus that rammed a tractor carrying sugarcane near Algur village in Bagalkot on Monday

4 students die, 28 hurt as school bus rams tractor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bagalkot

FOUR students died and 28 were injured when their school bus hit a tractor carrying sugarcane at Algur village in Jamkhandi taluk on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Govind Jambgi,13, Shweta Patil,12, Basavaraj Kottagi,17, and Sagar Kadakol,16.

The students of Vardhaman Nyamagouda School private were returning home after participating in the annual day function when the accident took place.

The injured were shifted to hospitals in Jamkhandi and Vijayapura. District in-charge minister RB Timmapur visited the injured students. He also met the parents of the deceased students and offered his condolences.

He said on the direction of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each will be given to the families of the deceased students and Rs 50,000 to the injured students.

MLA Siddu Savadi, deputy commissioner S Janaki and superintendent of police Amarnath Reddy visited the accident spot.

EXPRESS READ

Tension in Nanjangud village after clash

Mysuru: Tension prevails at Hallare village in Nanjangud taluk after members of two communities clashed over Dr Ambedkar's stone plaque on Monday night. A few people were injured and several houses and vehicles were damaged as the clashing groups indulged in pelting stones. Nanjangud r ural police rushed to the village and brought the situation under control | P5

Car mows down tiger near Mysuru airport

Mysuru: A two-year-old tiger was mowed down by a speeding car on the Mysuru-Nanjangud highway near Mandakalli airport on Sunday night. After knocking the tiger down, the driver stopped the car on the road and fled. The car belongs to Susheela, a resident of Chamarajanagar. Forest officials have seized the car and registered a case against the driver | P5

MODI MANTRAS FOR BOARD EXAMS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA

- Parents should not make report cards of their children as their visiting card
- There is nothing like the right time, do not wait for it
- Friendship is not a transactional emotion, rejoice in the success of your friends too
- Screen time eats into sleep time; I fall asleep within 30 seconds of going to bed
- Never sow seeds of competition and rivalry between your children. Siblings should be an inspiration for each other
- Instil resilience in children to cope pressures
- Compete with yourself, not with your friend
- Don't prepare till the last moment, approach exams with a relaxed mind to avoid unwanted tension
- Failures must not cause disappointments, every mistake is a new learning
- Establish transparency between family members, share phone passcodes with them, no gadget during dinner | More on P7

Soren goes 'missing' in Delhi ahead of ED visit

Seeks footage of grilling

Soren's office on Sunday wrote to ED asking it to preserve the footage of the 7-hr questioning on January 20 "to make available to the Court of Law"

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) officials descended on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's Delhi residence to grill him in connection with a money-laundering probe on Monday morning, hours after the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader slipped out. ED officials said Soren, who had left Ranchi for Delhi on Saturday night in a chartered plane, was untraceable.

According to sources, Soren quietly left his Delhi residence in the wee hours on Monday, accompanied by one of his aides. He was nowhere to be seen by the time the ED team arrived. The ED sleuths camped at his house for nearly 13 hours. They reportedly seized a BMW car and recovered some documents during the search.

The ED had asked Soren to appear for questioning on Monday or Wednesday. Meanwhile, the JMM said its leader will appear before ED on Wednesday at 1 pm at his Ranchi residence. JMM's spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said Soren is in Delhi for some personal work and termed the ED team's home visit 'politically motivated'.

India can become a developed country by 2047, says FinMin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Centre-state ties must for success of reforms

To accelerate growth, the report calls for collaboration between the Centre and states, emphasising the need for purposeful reforms and complete participation from state governments. It also highlights external challenges, particularly the risk of geopolitical conflicts

INDIA's economy is expected to grow above 7% in the coming years on the back of the country's robust financial sector and ongoing reforms, says a new report of the Union finance ministry released ahead of the interim Budget.

The report titled *The Indian Economy: A Review* envisions India becoming the world's third-largest economy within the next three years with a GDP of $5 trillion and a $7-trillion economic power house by 2030.

The government's goal of achieving the 'developed country' status by 2047 is achievable if the reforms are not interrupted, it says. "It now appears very likely that the Indian economy will achieve a growth rate at or above 7% for FY24, and some predict it will achieve another year of 7% real growth in FY25 as well. If the prognosis for FY25 turns out to be right, that will mark the fourth year post-pandemic that the Indian economy will have grown at or over 7%. That would be an impressive achievement, testifying to the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. It augurs well for the future," the report said.

The report also dwells on the positive impact of reforms on private investments citing measures such as GST.

The report, prepared by Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran and his team, however, does not replace the Economic Survey, which will be released before the full Budget is presented after the general elections.

Police cane protesting BJP and JDS workers in Mandya on Monday | UDAYASHANKAR S

Flag row: Cops cane BJP, JDS protesters in Mandya

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mandya

TENSION prevailed in Mandya on Monday when BJP and JDS workers, who were protesting against the removal of a Hanuman flag at Keragodu village in the district on Sunday, pulled down the hoardings of local Congress MLA Ravi Ganiga.

A few protesters, including women, were injured when police resorted to a mild lathicharge to disperse them. However, the police action did not deter BJP and JDS workers from continuing their protest. Soon, a large number of people joined the protest, raising "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" slogans. They demanded the district administration lift the prohibitory orders and allow them to unfurl the flag at Keragodu. They stated that the flag has been fluttering there for 35 years. Earlier in the day, BJP and JDS workers gathered in the village and took out a procession to Mandya. Workers of the two parties from various parts of the district also joined the procession to the deputy commissioner's office. P6

Fear grips Tadkod

Dharwad: A few families belonging to a particular community are quietly leaving Tadkod village in Dharwad district, fearful of Hindu activists visiting the village. Recently, a bout of communal violence shook the village after a youth from a minority community posted a controversial picture on social media. P6

WILL PRESENT ₹3.8L CR BUDGET, PROVE MY CRITICS WRONG: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that the size of the state budget for 2024-25 to be presented on February 16 will be around Rs 3.8 lakh crore, up by Rs 50,000 crore, compared to his previous budget for 2023-24 with an outlay of Rs 3.3 lakh crore.

"The BJP has been criticising that my government has no money and has become bankrupt. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had stated that it is impossible to implement the five guarantees, and if that is done, then the government will become bankrupt. But I will present a budget of the size between Rs 3.7 lakh crore and Rs 3.8 lakh crore. If there is no money, how could the size of the budget be this much?" he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being felicitated in Tumakuru on Monday

After inaugurating several development works and distributing benefits worth Rs 697.27 crore to 30,125 beneficiaries of various government schemes in Tumakuru district, Siddaramaiah said the event itself was a fitting response to his critics and opposition parties, especially the BJP.

He appealed to women and youth beneficiaries of the guarantee schemes to give a fitting reply to the BJP and RSS. "This event is an answer to those who mislead the people that the Congress government has no money to implement the five guarantees schemes," he said. P6